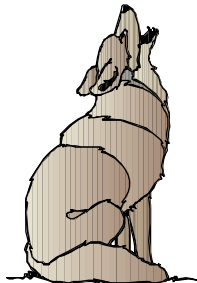


THE RABIES VIRUS

Rabies is a fatal disease that is caused by a virus that attacks the central nervous system. All mammals, humans included, are susceptible. The wild reservoirs of rabies in Arizona are bats, skunks, and foxes. These animals then transmit rabies to any mammal and the cycle continues. Small rodents and rabbits are almost never found to be infected with rabies. Bites by these rodents and rabbits are usually not considered a risk of rabies exposure unless the animal was sick or behaving in any unusual manner and rabies is highly concentrated in your area.



Rabies can be confirmed only by submitting the animal to a laboratory for testing. The rabies virus does not remain transmittable in the carcass of an infected animal for more than 24 hours, unless frozen. The rabies virus is shed at high levels in the saliva and is transmitted when an animal bites another animal or you. In rare cases the rabies virus can be transmitted if infectious matter from a rabid animal, such as saliva or brain tissue, gets directly into the eyes, nose, mouth, or open wound. Other contact, such as petting a rabid animal or contact with their blood, urine, or feces, does not constitute an exposure to rabies.



SYMPTOMS

There are many symptoms an animal may display when it is rabid, although not **all** symptoms will be shown by one individual animal infected with rabies. These signs may be subtle or obvious.

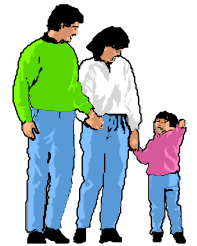
- ❖ Apprehension
- ❖ Nervousness
- ❖ Anxiety
- ❖ Solitude
- ❖ Fever
- ❖ Behavior changes
- ❖ Loss of appetite
- ❖ Unusual vocalizations
- ❖ Biting at itself or others
- ❖ Begin to roam, disoriented, restless
- ❖ Deep labored breathing
- ❖ Stagger, unsteadiness
- ❖ Tremors, convulsions
- ❖ Unprovoked aggression
- ❖ Salivate as a result of their inability to swallow
- ❖ Nocturnal animals, such as bats, skunks, raccoons, and foxes, may be seen active during the day.



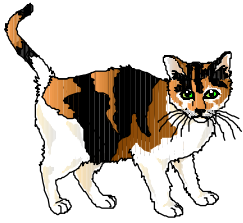
What to do after a possible exposure

If you are exposed to a potentially rabid animal, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical attention immediately. To assess the risk of rabies exposure the following information is highly important:

- ❖ Geographic location of incident
- ❖ Type of animal involved
- ❖ How exposure occurred
- ❖ Vaccination status of animal
- ❖ Can animal be captured and tested



All animal bites must be reported to your local animal control officer. If the biting animal is a dog, cat, or other domesticated mammal, the animal will be placed under observation for ten to fourteen days. If it remains healthy for that period, no risk of rabies transmission exists. If you are bitten by a bat, skunk, fox, coyote, or other wild animal, it should be presumed rabid until laboratory testing is complete. If the animal cannot be tested you will need to consult your local animal control officer, your doctor and local health department about whether you need to start anti-rabies treatment. Once the disease develops there is no treatment for rabies, death is the outcome.



VACCINATION AND PREVENTION

Precaution with wild animals and vaccination of domestic ones is essential.

- Vaccination is the best way to prevent infection and properly vaccinated animals stand very little chance of contracting the disease.
- Keep your pets restrained so they do not come in contact with wild animals.
- If your pet is bitten by a wild animal, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact animal control.
- Enjoy wild animals from afar. DO NOT handle, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans or litter.

The information provided here should not substitute for doctor or veterinarian advice.

Sedona Animal Control
928-282-3100

Yavapai Animal Control
928-282-1000

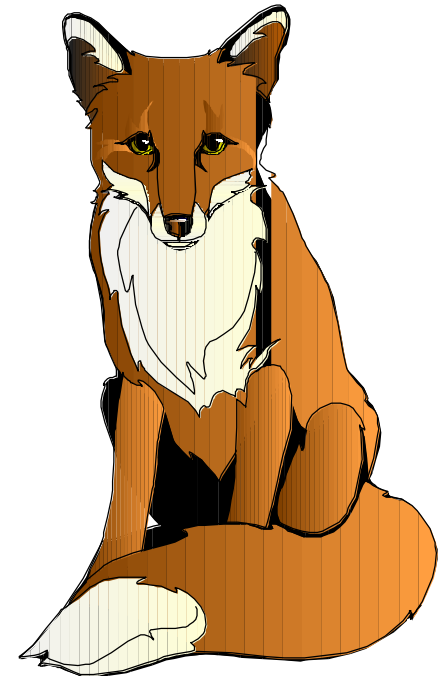
Coconino Animal Management
928-779-5164



Sedona Police Department
100 Roadrunner Dr.
Sedona, AZ 86336

(928) 282-3100
Fax: (928) 282-0622

RABIES



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